

# THE Organized FARMER

F.W.U.A. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Trust and Understanding Would Bring World Peace

By Mrs. Russell Johnston

My message is a report on a UNESCO Seminar which, as your president, I was privileged to attend.

The F.W.U.A. is an associate member of the United Nations Association in Canada. We support their principles and occasionally some of our members are able to attend meetings of the Edmonton, Calgary or Lethbridge branches. Many of the F.W.U.A. locals have sponsored grade XI students with high standing in Social Studies to the UNESCO Seminar at Banff, and science students to the UNESCO science seminar at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Both seminars are sponsored by the United Nations Association.

I had the privilege of attending the UNESCO seminar sponsored by the Edmonton Branch at which the main speaker was Dr. Roby Kidd, Chairman of the Interna-

tional Advisory Committee on Adult Education. Following a film depicting the ability of science to raise the living standards of the world's people, Dr. Kidd spoke on the "Explosion of Science." UNESCO's main thrust is to make scientific knowledge available to all. He concluded, "The work of science will be judged by its impact on human value and decency. To help guide its use aright is the duty of every good citizen."

The meeting divided into four seminars on Education, Science, Culture and Mass Communications. I joined the Mass Communications group chaired by General Wright of the Department of Extension. The discussion leader, Prof. J. King Gordon, professor of International Affairs, U. of A., stated UNESCO has from all over the world and from its great consultation and clear-centre in Paris is beaming out ideas — political ideas (human rights), scientific ideas (achievement of a decent life). The scope is vast but money is limited. Communication is basic to educational advance. An ignorant people can't break through their vicious circle. As citizens we have a double responsibility through governments and through voluntary organizations.

### CO-OPERATION AMONG MEN

I enjoyed the workshop dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Harper, our gracious host and hostess, a university professor who made very challenging statements, and a student from Pakistan at our table of six.

The theme of Dr. Kidd's evening address, "The Twentieth Century Belongs to the People Who Can Bring Co-operation Among Men Everywhere." The "Peace of Nations" is founded on mutual

trust. We must accept China in the United Nations where we can discuss our problems and learn to understand one another's point of view. The longer we delay the more folly will be perpetrated.

In the past people in the under-developed nations had needs. Today they are awakening to the fact that people in the affluent nations have more than they can use. The needs of these poor nations have become wants — wants which they are going to demand.

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## "Freedom Fund" ... Grows!

At last count, 12 farmers had contributed the price of one market hog to the "Give A Hog For Freedom" fund, which was set up to help defray the costs of the Hog Marketing Board educational campaign. Interestingly, most of these donations were obviously the exact price the donor had received from the sale of the donated hog. Cheques were made out for \$37.50, \$36.00, etc.

Here is the donors' list to-date:

Max Sears, New Norway  
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L. B. Beck, Bay Tree  
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Ed Nelson, Brightview  
Elbridge Local No. 426  
Martin Kenzie, Vermilion  
Gordon R. Hayes, Box 172, Fairview  
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Mark Saffin, Morinville  
J. Ken McIntosh, Grande Prairie  
Eric S. Dunstan, Box 28, Lloydminster



Mrs. Russell Johnston

## Ontario Hog Men Meet Alberta Producers

Last week, two Ontario hog farmers visited the Province of Alberta. Lance Dickieson of Ariss, and Clare Curtin from Lindsey, Ontario, chairman, and vice-chairman respectively of the Ontario Hog Producers' Marketing Board, spoke at a series of meetings arranged by the Alberta Hog Marketing Committee. Purpose of the visit was to give Alberta hog producers a chance to hear first hand about the operations of the Ontario Board.

The two Ontario hog men addressed a total of 18 meetings and met more than 1500 producers. They were questioned closely on various parts of the Ontario operation. Alberta producers wanted to know whether or not production is controlled in Ontario; whether or not the packing plants are getting into the business of hog production; and whether or not Ontario producers were dissatisfied with their board. In each case, the answer was "no."

Commenting on the series of meetings he had attended, mostly in Southern Alberta, Mr. Curtin said that he had found great interest in the marketing board idea.

Mr. Dickieson agreed. He pointed out that he and Mr. Curtin had come to Alberta at the request of the Hog Marketing Committees, a joint body of the FUA and AFA, to explain the operation of the Ontario Board. He said that after seeing present marketing conditions here in Alberta, he was reminded of 10 years ago in Ontario, before the Board was established, and marketing problems were solved.

Mr. Dickieson travelled through Northern Alberta. Large turnouts at his meetings impressed him with the interest there is in the subject of Hog Marketing Boards.

Both men agreed that the same principle involved in the setting up of the Ontario Board was paramount here in Alberta. "And that," Mr. Curtin said, "is keeping for the ordinary producer his God-given right to a market for his product."

"This is the reason a marketing board came into being in Ontario," he said. "Before, the farmer's available market was being diluted and eroded. Now, regardless of whether he produces 10 or 1000 hogs, the market is there for him."

## How A Hog Marketing Board Operates

How far can an industry go if most people in it have little confidence in its marketing operation? That was the problem bothering Ontario's hog producers in December, 1945, when they

### FARM SURVEY EVALUATION BEGINS

Project Discovery has entered a new phase. Sponsored by the Farmers' Union and Co-operative Development Association, this project is a province-wide survey of farmer attitudes. It began early last winter.

With most of the survey questionnaires already returned to Project Discovery Headquarters in Edmonton, data processing has begun. Research Consultant Dr. L. B. Doscher, who is in charge of the overall project, is currently supervising the data tabulation.

Mr. Doscher is very pleased with the response the survey has had. She says that it has been very much better than is usual with a survey of this type, which has depended almost completely on volunteer effort. All of the 200 or more interviewers were volunteers. Dr. Doscher says that the survey has received splendid co-operation at all times.

Aim of the survey is to discover attitudes and needs of Alberta farm families. It is expected that Project Discovery will be completed early next fall.

voted 29,353 "for" and 205 "against" setting up some sort of a marketing plan for their hogs.

Looking back today with an 18-year perspective on the then highly controversial hog board, an Ontario marketing official reflected on conditions when the Board got its first 99.4 per cent "yea."

"Only about 10 per cent of Ontario's hogs were then being sold on the open market," said Herb Arbuckle, vice-chairman of the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board. "Many farmers were not satisfied. There was no way of establishing price. In other words, all competition for hogs was not open and above board." After personal observation and study G. F. Perkin, former chairman of the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board, wrote in a booklet entitled "Marketing Milestones in Ontario 1935-60," that 90 per cent of the hogs were picked up off farms and directed by drovers and truckers to packing plants of their choice without price having been agreed to by producers. It was suggested that the drover or

trucker often went to the plant that paid him the largest fee.

Mr. Perkin objected most to the various ways the processors bought hogs. Sometimes, the farmer sold hogs at his farm and the processor paid the freight to take them to the plant. Other times, hogs were bought at the plant and the farmer was charged freight and other expenses. Sometimes, the hogs were sold to drovers who got more for them than did a producer selling direct to the plant.

The present head of Ontario's Farm Products Marketing Board, a provincial government body, is George McCague who was definite views on the job of a market.

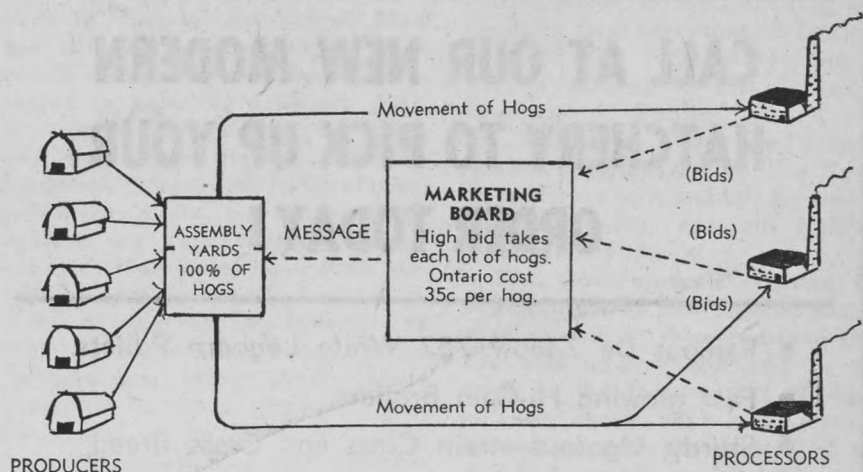
### IN THE OPEN

"The most important job of a marketing program," Mr. McCague said recently, "is to bring out the full effect of competition on the market. This should eliminate discrimination and collusion, including special deals and kickbacks. It should open to public view the entire marketing operation."

### PROFILE OF THE PROTOTYPE:

Efforts to organize producer-controlled hog marketing boards in the three western provinces have led to widespread debates among prairie farmers about the methods and merits of such a system. A review of the operations of the 18-year-old Ontario Hog Marketing Board, the first and only one in Canada, was made recently in the Family Herald. It was written by Jack Art, regional editor from Toronto, for this national farm magazine.

### HOW ONTARIO HOGS GO TO MARKET

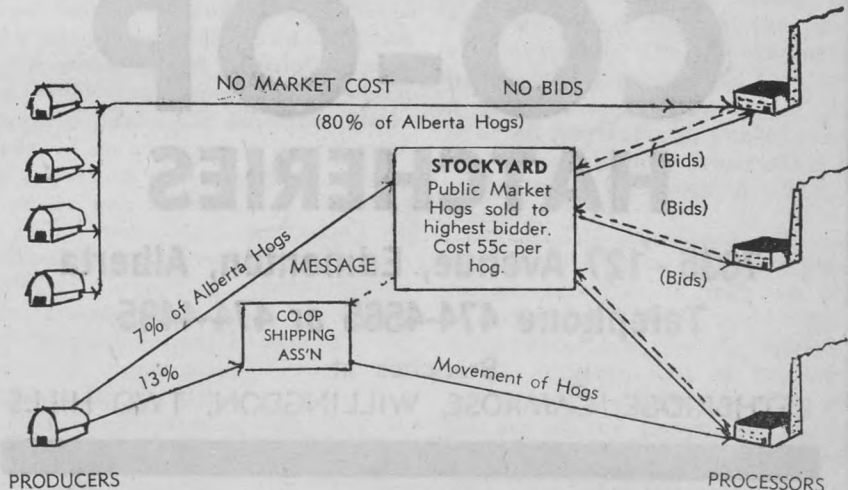


"Under the present Ontario hog producers' marketing plan," Mr. McCague said, "all hogs are offered in the open. Every processor that is interested has equal opportunities to buy. The buyer that offers the most money gets the product. The producers have the

privilege of employing a reserve bid if they think that the processors are bidding too low. When they do use their reserve bid, the product must be re-offered through the system. We have as

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### HOG MARKETING BOARD . . .

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pure a marketing system as can be devised for hogs in Ontario. The Hog Marketing Board has established ethics in the market place and a stability for producers that are a standard for Ontario and the continent. Relationships between processors and producers have been improved through the meetings of the 10-man advisory

committee to the hog board. This group equally represents processors and producers."

Five reasons for a hog marketing board are seen by Jim Boynton, secretary-manager of the Ontario Hog Producers' Marketing Board.

1. The Board is "a sales system controlled by the producers themselves through a closely-supervised election procedure."
2. The Board provides "an equality of opportunity for the producer offering his product for sale, whether it be five hogs or 50 marketed at one particular time."
3. The Board also offers "a means by which the processors can bid competitively for their supply with a minimum of trading abuses."
4. The Board provides "a means of permanently recording the actual sales and the producer's settlement, also provides a guarantee of payments."
5. Finally, the Board provides "a means of obtaining finances for a producer organization."

The Ontario Hog Producers' Marketing Board is now definitely big business. Some 550,000 to 600,000 separate cheques were sent out last year. The Board sold \$108 millions worth of hogs in 1963.

The hog board itself is elected on a democratic basis. Producers in each county elect county com-

mittee-men who, in turn, elect board directors responsible for evolving marketing policies. To carry out its policies, the hog board hires a sales manager who is responsible for administering the sales policy and a secretary-manager for general policy.

### TELETYPE SALES

Every Ontario pig which comes to market passes through an involved procedure aimed at obtaining the best possible price. The hog may be delivered from the farm to one of the 44 assembly yards located strategically throughout Ontario, or the one operated by the Board in Montreal. The farmer may deliver his own hogs to one of these assembly yards or a trucker may do it for him. Hogs are sold from the marketing yard and taken at the packer's expense to his plant.

After the hogs arrive at the marketing yard, they are weighed and penned. When a number of hogs are available for sale at that yard, the yard advises the Board's sales office in Toronto. The bigger marketing yards have a teletype to the sales office. The smaller yards phone in.

The sales force in Toronto then makes out an offering slip for the lot of hogs at the marketing yard showing the date, the yard, the lot number and the number of hogs offered. Then a complicated electronic system consisting of a master teletype machine and a circuit of 18 "buying" teletypes take over the sales job. Seventeen major Ontario packers are on this closed system. The eighteenth "buying" teletype belongs to the Board itself, which makes purchases for 30 small Ontario packers and six in Quebec. Packers are considered major if they made over one per cent of all purchases when the teletype system was set up in 1961.

Mrs. Helen Pell, assisted by two other women, operates the master

### F.W.U.A. MESSAGE . . .

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They will develop a sense of outrage toward waste and may become articulate regarding the waste of resources spent on armaments.

Dr. Kidd pointed to the world wide tendency towards sex discrimination. He quoted James Thurber, "Women's place is in the wrong," and agreed with Thruber regarding the harmful effects upon society when women, one half of our society, are kept in a lesser position. Sweden is embarking on a program to educate the women of Africa. We must continue our efforts through ACWW to know and assist women of other countries. By giving to the Lady Aberdeen Scholarship we can assist in educating personnel who will help the women of their own countries.

We must work together for greater world understanding. To overcome the language barrier we must reach understanding through various activities. To a degree there is an international language in science, work, the various arts, sports and travel. We must accept religious pluralism. Our problem is to live together in trust.

In such a world there is a growing place for international organizations and the U.N. agencies have had no serious failure or default. UNESCO despite its small world budget (about equal to the combined Calgary and Edmonton education budgets) is becoming a channel through which scholars, teachers, etc., can work together effectively.

As Canadians we have two objectives in the near future. (1) 1965 as International Co-operation Year. It was first suggested by Canadian Voice of Women and brought before the United Nations by Prime Minister Nehru of India. (2) 1967 Canada's Centennial Year. Dr. Kidd suggested that Canada might celebrate by giving gifts to others. He referred to the Canadian Adult Education work in the Caribbean area and suggested that we make a similar gift elsewhere as a Canadian Birthday Gift.

## PEARCE PROJECT IS HANNA RALLY TOPIC

The subject of the Red Deer River Diversion will be reviewed at a public rally sponsored by the East Central Alberta Development Board in Hanna on Thurs-

day, April 30. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p.m. A special invitation has been extended to all FUA locals in the "East Country" to send representation to this meeting. According to the Development Board the meeting will deal with the recent report on the irrigation of "The Hemaruka Soil Zone" in the Youngstown area, by J. A. Toogood of the Provincial Soils Laboratory. This report concluded that from the point of view of irrigation, the Hemaruka Soil Zone did not have enough potential to justify the cost of getting water to it.

"Hemaruka soils" make up about one-third of the potential area in the William Pearce Irrigation Scheme, which has been promoted in the area for many years. This scheme is based on a diversion of the Red Deer River through irrigation canals to the Youngstown-Hanna area. This would provide water for irrigation, and for livestock and municipal water supplies in the area. The Hon. Harry Strom, Minister of Agriculture will be guest speaker. Others invited to the meeting include Mr. Reg Bailey, Chief Engineer of the Water Resources Branch, Mr. Fitzgerald, Western Director of P.F.R.A., and Mr. Ed Gray, P.F.R.A. District Engineer. A banquet sponsored by the Hanna Board of Trade will be held prior to the rally. Those interested in attending should get in touch with Mr. Don McCallum, President of the Hanna Board of Trade not later than April 26. The banquet will start at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$1.60 each.

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IF YOU AGREE with the marketing board principle, make a donation to the

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If you can, give the proceeds from a hog to preserve your freedom to market your produce.



## HOG MARKETING BOARD . . .

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sold at. Although they know the price paid, none of the other buyers knows which of their competitors bought the pigs.

The teletype bidding machine is so finely tuned, Mr. Gray said, that it is impossible for two packers to bid on the same lot of pigs at the same time.

## SALES STATISTICS KEPT

Sales of the pigs are then listed on a blackboard under the marketing yard from which they were sold. A running total is kept at each marketing yard, Mr. Gray said. In addition, there is a grand total kept for the entire province throughout the day. Mr. Gray said comparisons are kept on sales for each hour. A weighted average price for each hour shows whether the price trend is going up or down hourly.

Sales are kept for each hour in the day and can be compared to the same hours the same day a week previous. Sales can also be compared between one day to the same day a week previous.

"We have the statistics on every facet of this business," Mr. Gray said. "Each morning, before any trading is done, a sales meeting is held by the sales head. At that time, all pertinent matters pertaining to the business are discussed. Out of the meeting come the procedures for the current day then we decide what price we'll ask for hogs that day. We know the situation, not only in Ontario, but in more easterly Canadian markets, western Canada and the United States.

Once the lot of hogs has been sold, the office staff under office manager Dayre Peer sees the producer gets a proper payment. The staff checks the yield or dressing per cent of the live weight, the marketing board checks with the packer in cases where there is too big a difference between live and dressed weights. The office staff also checks the selling price and the number of hogs on the sales slip to make sure the total returns coming to the producer are accurate. Adding machine operators calculate the gross returns to the producer. Then other

operators take charges for trucking, insurance and service charges. The net amount is mailed to the producer.

To make sure the packer's cheque will be good when the producer cashes it, packers worth less than \$500,000 are required to post either a bank guarantee or a bond.

Another active service is claims and adjustments under Joe Beck. Incorrect payments, often due to the inability of the packer's staff to read a pig's blurred tattoo, are checked out and adjusted. Although some 10,000 cheques are issued weekly, Mr. Beck said, an average of only 40 complaints weekly are received.

Services of the Ontario Hog Marketing Board currently are costing producers 35 cents per hog, office manager Peer said. The previous charge was 42 cents. This breaks down as 15 cents for yard costs, 22 cents for administration and selling and five cents per hog for other services. These other services include publishing swine production information in the board's publication "The Market Place." Payments also are made to country associations of the Ontario Hog Producers' Association to improve quality of pigs.

## BIDDERS ARE ANONYMOUS

Some producers apparently still believe that the packers in Ontario could get together and set a low price, but Jim Boynton said this is impossible because bidders are anonymous under the teletype system. Besides, packers need to keep bidding to keep their plants going. "Even a temporary withholding from the market which is occasionally exercised by different buyers—their privilege as part of buying strategy—has only a limited effect," Mr. Boynton said. Eventually they must come forward to buy.

Some packers, Mr. Boynton pointed out, wonder why the prices offered don't go higher and higher instead of starting high and coming down a nickel at a time. The hog board, however, has found there is more pressure to buy when price is coming down than when going up. This also speeds sales.

# Responsibility for Agriculture Divided Between Federal Government Ministers

Two new Government Bills introduced at the current session of Parliament, will significantly rearrange responsibilities for agricultural policy within the Federal Cabinet. The bills have the effect of increasing, and at the same time dividing, these responsibilities.

## SAFETY NOTE:

## Protect Your Lungs; Protect Your Health

We should think more about our lungs—about how important it is to protect them from damage. Health and safety experts throughout industry stress this. Farmers, too, should take what precautions they can to protect a vital part of their bodies. They must, if they want to keep alive and healthy.

The biggest fact that must be kept in mind is this: our lungs furnish an easy way for some harmful substances to get into our blood—substances that can be carried in the air we breathe. Because the blood circulates to all parts of the body, any poisonous substance is easily carried to

A third criticism, made by packers, is that it is impossible for quality-minded producers to sell direct to a plant which would give a premium for quality. Mr. Boynton pointed out that the value of quality is recognized by a difference of \$1 per hundredweight in the price of grade A and B hogs. With the federal premium, there could be a total difference of \$4.50 a hog in payments. Moreover, he says he is not convinced that packers are that concerned

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places where it can do the most damage.

Our lungs are pretty wonderful things. They are made up of millions of tiny air cells, too small to be seen except through a powerful microscope. They are strung along on the tiny air passages like tight bunches of grapes. The lining of each of these air cells is a really remarkable filter. It lets the oxygen in the air through to the blood without letting the blood out. At the same time, it lets carbon dioxide from the blood pass out through it to be breathed out. It also lets some other wastes through to be breathed out.

But oxygen is not the only gas which can pass through into the blood. A great many vapours and gases can pass through. These may be very harmful to the body. Some of them are so poisonous that a bare trace of them is too much to breathe all day. That is why it is sometimes so necessary that men working where these gases are present wear gas masks, even though every effort is made to keep the air free from contamination. It is just not worth while to take changes.

Then too, we have dust. There is always some dust in the air—even in the cleanest places. Man has always breathed dust. As a result, our lungs have become adjusted to handling ordinary dust. It is only when it gets too thick and too finely divided that the lungs can't cope with it. Of course, poisonous dusts, or those which irritate the delicate lung linings are bad. Our lungs have little defence against these.

All of this has implications for the modern farmer. Today, many farmers are using highly toxic materials to treat grain, control pests, and so on. Mercurial seed dressings, pesticides like dieldrin and aldrin and various other dusts and sprays used in weed and insect control all have hazards for the person using them. Many of the harmful effects of these substances are cumulative. It may take a long time for harmful residues to build up. Every caution should be taken to prevent serious trouble.

Keeping the air in the lungs free from harmful substances is one precaution. This can be done by ensuring good ventilation and by enclosing operations which might produce air pollution. However, in many cases it is still wise to invest in some type of respirator or gas mask.

Most poisonings, according to industrial supervisors, are the result of breathing contaminated air. It may take days or weeks of breathing small amounts of harmful substances before the damage shows up.

The big point of all this is, if you find your operations bring you into contact with extreme

One bill will be introduced for the purpose of creating "a new department which will combine the functions of the existing Departments of Agriculture and Forestry." According to the governments announcement, "the combined department will have two ministers, between whom there will be an efficient distribution of responsibilities.

The senior Minister will be the Minister of Agriculture, and the other will be the Minister of Rural Development and Forestry. The new Minister will exercise the duties and functions presently assigned to the Minister of Agriculture for A.R.D.A. and similar programs, and also for certain farm matters relating specifically to Eastern Canada, such as the administration of eastern feed grains policy."

A second Bill will be introduced to create a new special agency to plan and supervise the future of branch railway lines, and to make the agency responsible to the Minister of Agriculture. The Government stated that this was being done because line rationalization is primarily of concern to rural communities and especially to farmers in Western Canada.

If the proposed legislative changes are approved by Parliament, it has been announced that the newly-appointed Minister of Forestry, the Hon. Maurice Sauve, will subsequently be named to the portfolio of Rural Development and Forestry. The Hon. Harry Hays will continue to serve as the Minister of Agriculture in the combined department.

Mr. Sauve is 40 years old, and is a member of Parliament for Isles-de-la-Madeleine. He was born in Montreal and studied at St. Mary's College, the University of Montreal, London School of Economics, and Paris University, graduating with a B.A., LL.B., and Ph.D. degree in economics. From 1952 to 1955, Mr. Sauve was technical advisor to the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour. In 1955 and 1956, he served as Vice President of the Canadian Institute of Public Affairs, and in September 1955, he became Assistant Secretary on the Royal Commission on Canada's Economic Prospects. He entered Federal Politics in 1962.

The Government's reasons for re-organization are implied rather than stated. It does indicate that the new agency will add to the work of the Department of Agriculture, work that was already increasing with the growth of the A.R.D.A. program. On the other hand, it pointed out that the Department of Forestry has activities in many ways parallel to those of Agriculture, especially in research and land rehabilitation, and is a relatively small department. By combining the functions of the two departments, and dividing the responsibilities involved between two ministers, the work load would be more evenly distributed. Lying back of the move, of course, is the Government's pre-election promise to have both a Minister and an Associate Minister of Agriculture, one of whom will be specifically responsible for agriculture problems in Eastern Canada.

dust conditions, or materials marked as harmful, it may be wise to consider obtaining some type of lung protection. Ask the advice of safety experts, and of your doctor. Read the labels on the containers of the materials you use. Remember, the health you save may be your own!



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HOG MARKETING BOARD . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

about quality. In some counties in Ontario hogs grading A average 40 per cent or better. Yet producers in these counties get little if any more money for their hogs from packers than in counties where hogs grade no more than 25 per cent A's, Mr. Boynton said.

Some critics say that bruising and dead hogs are excessively high under board marketing. Mr. Boynton argues that the loss from market yards to plant is declining. For the week January 20-24 the per cent of dead hogs was 0.01 per cent for over 57,700 hogs.

An agricultural economist, Prof. G. I. Trant, of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, commented recently that marketing boards are valuable because they inform both buyers and sellers of the true conditions of the market. This allows competition to increase and bids to be made on a realistic assessment of the market. By providing reliable information on markets and by meeting large packing firms as an equal in the market, the Ontario Hog Producers' Marketing Board is doing that job for swine producers.

Federal grants to agricultural fairs are estimated at \$1,000,000 for 1963-64.

OPEN FORUM

SINCERE THANKS

Dear Sir:

I wish to take this opportunity to express my most sincere thanks to your organisation for sponsoring and taking an active part in the Leadership Techniques Short Course.

This was a very worthwhile undertaking and having been in attendance as a student this year, I wish to commend you on the high quality of this course.

I feel special tribute should be paid to the staff, who were, at all times, helpful and understanding. Our own achievements were, to a great extent possible because of their encouragement and guidance.

The speakers too, were of the very best and very well received by the student body. We particularly enjoyed the more informal sessions and the workshop type of training.

Thank you again for making this course available to us.

yours very truly,

Mrs. W. R. Charlton  
Barrhead, Alta.

(Editors' Note: The 14th Annual Short Course in Leadership Tech-

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niques held January 19 to February 1, 1964 at the Banff School of Fine Arts drew one of the largest numbers of students in its history. Some 58 were registered. Object of the course was to assist young men and women to prepare themselves for more demanding positions in community leadership, and to become more effective officers in their own organisations. Sponsors included the FUA, Alberta Wheat Pool, UGG, UFA Co-op, Department of Agriculture, Women's Institutes, FU & CDA, AFA, FWUA, University of Alberta Extension Department, and the Jr. FUA.)

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank you and those concerned for sponsoring me to the Banff Leadership course which I attended at the end of January. I certainly think that this course was very educational and worthwhile, and I do wish more people would take advantage of courses such as these. I myself hope to return and take in the Conference again at some later date, and at that time pick up more of that very valuable training.

With best wishes I remain,  
Yours truly,  
Mrs. Norma Baron  
District 5 Secretary

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